

## Summary

### Rebenchmarking of Labour Force estimates

#### OVERVIEW

The ABS re-benchmarks Labour Force data once a quarter (ahead of the release of February, May, August and November issues) to ensure the estimates are based on the most up to date population benchmarks. This publication presents the estimates up to January 2018 based on the revised population benchmarks.

Revisions to original data resulting from rebenchmarking are usually confined to the previous 22 months. However, last quarter the ABS rebenchmarked 76 months of data: from July 2011 to June 2016 (the 60 months between the 2011 and 2016 Censuses) to accommodate the preliminary rebasing of population data to the 2016 Census; and thereafter from August 2016 to October 2017 (16 months) as is standard practice. In this issue the ABS has only rebenchmarked those months where population data has been revised, from July 2017 to January 2018 (7 months).

Incorporating the latest revised population benchmarks has resulted in minor revisions across the Labour Force series. Whilst the population benchmarks were only revised from July 2017 to January 2018, minor revisions to seasonally adjusted and trend estimates will also occur throughout the time series due to concurrent seasonal adjustment.

Detailed information on the extent of revisions resulting from rebenchmarking can be derived by comparing the data released in this issue and the data released in the January 2018 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) on 15 February 2018.

Further information on the process of rebenchmarking the period between the 2011 and 2016 Censuses, can be found in the article "Major Rebenchmarking of Labour Force Series" in the October 2017 issue of Labour Force, Australia - Rebenchmarked Estimates (cat. no. 6202.0.55.003).

The ABS will continue with the regular quarterly rebenchmarking, as per the process outlined in the article 'Rebenchmarking of Labour Force Series', published in the February 2015 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0). However, as noted in the article "Refocusing 6202.0.55.003 towards major rebenchmarking", published in this release, this publication is being refocused from a quarterly release to a periodic release, used to communicate the outcomes of major rebenchmarking processes.

Users of this rebenchmarking product are encouraged to compare data with that included in the previous release of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0). However, these rebenchmarked estimates are produced for information only, and should not be considered a replacement for the estimates in Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0).

### Refocusing 6202.0.55.003 towards major Rebenchmarking

#### REFOCUSING 6202.0.55.003 TOWARDS MAJOR REBENCHMARKING

##### QUARTERLY REBENCHMARKING AND THE MAGNITUDE OF REVISIONS

Since August 2015, Labour Force estimates have been 'rebenchmarked' on a quarterly basis, following an approach summarised in the article 'Rebenchmarking Labour Force Estimates', published in the February 2015 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0).

To assist users in assessing the impact of revisions resulting from quarterly rebenchmarking, the ABS began producing a complete set of timeseries spreadsheets in Labour Force, Australia - Rebenchmarked Estimates (cat. no. 6202.0.55.003), and published these a week before the first issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) was released using the new benchmarks.

The below table shows that the magnitude of the revisions to benchmarks in 6202.0.55.003, compared with the 6202.0 published estimate a few weeks earlier, have been minimal, even for the states and territories with relatively greater population change, such as Western Australia. Employed persons estimates are generally revised on average by less than 0.1 per cent, and the headline rates by a small change at the second or third decimal place.

#### AVERAGE MAGNITUDE OF REVISIONS (IN ABSOLUTE TERMS) TO THE MOST RECENT ESTIMATE IN THE 2016-17 YEAR, 6202.0 compared to 6291.0.55.003

	NSW	Vic.	Qld.	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
Employed persons (%)	0.067	0.066	0.029	0.068	0.152	0.031	0.262	0.124	0.045
Employment to population ratio (ppts)	0.008	0.023	0.004	0.010	0.013	0.005	0.023	0.023	0.005
Unemployed rate (ppts)	0.002	0.003	0.001	0.002	0.001	0.002	0.006	0.005	0.001
Participation rate (ppts)	0.009	0.026	0.004	0.011	0.014	0.004	0.022	0.026	0.005

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## REFOCUSING THE 6202.0.55.003 TOWARDS MAJOR REBENCHMARKING RELEASES

Since the magnitude of revisions resulting from quarterly rebenchmarking are minor, the Labour Force, Australia - Rebenchmarked Estimates (cat. no. 6202.0.55.003) release will be refocused from a quarterly release to a periodic release, used to communicate the outcomes of major rebenchmarking processes. This aligns with the use of this release, which has been very minimal outside of major rebenchmarking processes.

The release of Labour Force, Australia - Rebenchmarked Estimates, January 2018 (cat. no. 6202.0.55.003) will therefore be the last quarterly release of this publication, and the next issue of this periodic release will therefore be Labour Force, Australia - Rebenchmarked Estimates, October 2018 (cat. no. 6202.0.55.003), which will include the outcomes of the major rebenchmarking of Labour Force estimates to final 2016 Census -based population estimates.

Quarterly rebenchmarking will continue, and will be reflected in the February, May, August and November issues of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0).

## About this Release

Summary results of the January 2018 Labour Force Survey benchmarked to the February 2018 estimates of the civilian population and containing estimates of employed and unemployed persons classified by sex, full-time/part-time status, states and territories and persons not in the labour force.